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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,810	12/11/2000	Messaoud Benantar	AUS9-2000-0808-US1	2065

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Joseph R. Burwell
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Austin, TX 78755-8022

EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN HON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,810

Applicant(s)

BENANTAR, MESSAOUD

Examiner

Shin-Hon Chen

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-25 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of Zubeldia et al. European Patent No. 0869637 (hereinafter Zubeldia) and further in view of Grimmer U.S. Pat. No. 5774552 (hereinafter Grimmer).

4. As per claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 21, and 23, AAPA discloses a method for authorizing access to controlled resources within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising: receiving an attribute certificate from a client at a host within the distributed data processing system (AAPA: page 1 line 15 – page 27); verifying the attribute certificate using the public key certificate of the issuing authority for the attribute certificate (AAPA: page 1 line 15 – page 27); and authorizing the client to have access to the controlled resources in accordance with authorization attributes stored in the attribute certificate (AAPA: page 1 line 15 – page 27).

Art Unit: 2131

AAPA does not explicitly disclose extracting a first locator from the attribute certificate, wherein the first locator identifies a location of a public key certificate of an issuing authority for the attribute certificate; retrieving the public key certificate of the issuing authority for the attribute certificate. However, Zubeldia discloses using certificate index to retrieve certificate information used for authentication from repository (Zubeldia: page 4 line33 – page 5 line 8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the certificate index to retrieve information required for authenticating the digital certificate. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Zubeldia within the system of AAPA because it allows more efficient and flexible digital certification by storing necessary information for authenticating the certificate in a central repository so that it is easy to change attributes in the certificate.

AAPA as modified does not explicitly disclose the method of retrieving information/certificate and information/certificate stored in the repository that complies with X.509 standard. However, Grimmer discloses that limitation (Grimmer: column 4 lines 6-41 and column 5 line 54 – column 8 lines 33: dynamic link library). It would have been to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Grimmer because it increases security by storing authentication certificate/information in a secure centralized repository.

5. As per claim 3, 11, and 19, AAPA as modified discloses the method of claim 1. AAPA as modified further discloses wherein the attribute certificate and the public key certificate of the issuing authority for the attribute certificate are formatted according to the X.509 standard (AAPA: page 3 lines 9-18).

6. Claims 2 , 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Zubeldia and further in view of Grimmer and further in view of Kent U.S. Pat. No. 6671804 (hereinafter Kent) and further in view of de Silva et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6615347 (hereinafter de Silva).

7. As per claim 2, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, and 24, AAPA as modified discloses the method of claim 1 and 5. AAPA as modified further discloses extracting user's certificate. AAPA as modified does not explicitly discloses the method comprising: extracting a second locator from the attribute certificate, wherein the second locator identifies a location of a public key certificate of a holder of the attribute certificate; retrieving the public key certificate of the holder of the attribute certificate; authenticating the holder using the public key certificate of the holder. However, Kent discloses the attribute certificate has a pointer that binds attribute certificate with the user's public key certificate (Kent: column 1 lines 36-39). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the pointer to find the user's public key certificate in the repository. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Kent within the combination of AAPA-Zubeldia-Grimmer because it is well known in the art.

AAPA as modified does not explicitly discloses there are two locators stored in the digital certificates. However, de Silva discloses storing plurality of related certificates in the extension field of a certificate (de Silva: figure 3 and column 5 lines 15-41 and column 6 line 56 – column 7 line 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the extension

Art Unit: 2131

field to include ID required to retrieve information for authentication. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of de Silva within the combination of AAPA-Zubeldia-Grimmer-Kent because it is well known in the art to associate plurality of related certificates to establish trust path if necessary.

8. Claims 4, 12, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Zubeldia and further in view of Grimmer and further in view of de Silva.

9. As per claim 4, 12, and 20, AAPA as modified discloses the method of claim 1. However, AAPA as modified does not explicitly disclose wherein the first locator is stored within an X.509 extension within the attribute certificate. However, de Silva discloses the extension is used to store related certificates and serial numbers (de Silva: figure 2 and column 5 lines 15-41 and column 6 line 56 – column 7 line 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the serial numbers stored in the extension to retrieve other certificates in repository. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of de Silva within the combination of AAPA-Zubeldia-Grimmer because it is well known in the art to store certificate information into the extension of a certificate including serial numbers.

10. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrell et al. “An Internet Attribute Certificate Profile for Authentication” (hereinafter Farrell) in view of de Silva and further in view of Zubeldia.

11. As per claim 25, Farrell discloses a data structure representing an attribute certificate for use in a data processing system, the data structure comprising:

an issuer name; a signature; a holder name; an attribute; and an extension (Farrell: page 8 section 4.1).

Farrell does not explicitly disclose wherein the extension comprises a locator identifying a location of a public key certificate of an issuing authority for the attribute certificate. However, de Silva discloses the extension discloses related certificate and serial number (de Silva: (de Silva: figure 2 and column 5 lines 15-41 and column 6 line 56 – column 7 line 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of de Silvia within the system of Farrell because it allows additional information relating to the certificate to be used for authentication.

Farrell as modified does not explicitly disclose that issuing authority certificate can be obtained through locator. However, Zubeldia discloses issuing authority certificate can be obtained from a certification repository and the repository is accessed through unique ID. (Zubeldia: abstract: location of the additional information is indicated by the unique ID; page 3 lines 44-48: obtain a copy of certificate through certificate repository). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to obtain required information through the use of pointers or indicators that retrieves the information in a directory or database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Zubeldia within the combination of Farrell-de Silvia because using pointers or indicators to retrieve information in a database or directory is well known in the art.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Schell et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6615350 discloses certifying authority certificate and other certificates that may be used for binding structure include a set of standard information and the certifying authority certificate location can be a pointer or other data structure for accessing the certifying authority certificate (Schell: column 33 lines 10 – 65).

Van Oorschot et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6134550 discloses shortest trusted path for authenticating digital certificate.

Patel U.S. Pub. No. US20020004900 discloses method for secure anonymous communication.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2131

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shin-Hon Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

SC


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